

**WHANGAREI**  
**Physiotherapy Services**

445 Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei  
Telephone 09 435 2299  
Facsimile 09 435 2222  
Kensington Gym Clinic  
Telephone 09 459 5000

**Matarau Electrical Services**  
RD1, Kamo, Whangarei  
Phone 09 433 5533

Andrew Coop  
Registered Electrician  
021 733 883

All Domestic, farm & commercial maintenance  
New house wiring . Light industrial . alterations

**Top service anywhere in town**

**KAURI VETERINARY CLINIC**  
**31 Great North Road, Kamo**

Dr Andrew Miller BSc, BVSc  
Dr Allison McKenzie BSc, BVSc  
Dr Natalie Cochrane BVSc

**Ph 09 435 1100**  
Farm & Pet Centre

**OMAK MEATS**  
*The King of Meats*  
Your Meat Specialist

29 Kamo Road, Kamo A/H 09 4335738  
Phone 09 4351403 A/h 435 3002  
4351780 A/h fax 4353012  
Mobile 027 5435140

**ALASTAIR RICKEY DECORATING LTD**

Bring your home **to life...**

450 Matarau Road  
R.D.1 Kamo 0121  
Whangarei  
Ph/Fax: 09 435 5509  
Cell: 021 766 439  
email:rickey9@xtra.co.nz

Interior &  
Exterior  
Painting &  
Decorating



Independent - Trade Qualified  
Trent Sissons  
P 433 5156 M 021 743 163  
www.heatpumppro.co.nz

**new zealand HOME LOANS**  
FINANCIAL FREEDOM for lifestyle choice

Mark Adams  
NEW ZEALAND HOME LOAN WHANGAREI LTD  
26 Commerce Street, Whangarei  
Tel: 430 3527; Fax 430 3529  
Email: marka@nzhomeloans.co.nz  
Web: www.nzhomeloans.co.nz

**Newsletter**  
**Number 01**  
**5 February 2010**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Welcome to the 2010 school year. A special welcome to our new families - please bear with us while we learn all the new names.

**Newsletters (Keeping Informed)**

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website.

**Early Thanks**

...to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.

...Helen Dorahy and Jim Palmer, for working hard over the holidays preparing school for our return.

.. to Jenny for overseeing the issuing of stationery, and Kristine Redwood, Mary Finlayson, Jeremy and Katie for their assistance.

.. to those parents who attended this week's year 5 and 6 camp meeting and to those who have offered their support.

...to those parents & grandparents who made our 2009 prize giving so special and to all of those children who were called to the stage.

...to parents who acted early to ensure children were well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

**People of the week**

.. Scott who achieved first place in long jump at the recent North Island Athletics Championship and second place in the 100 and 200 metres..

Scott also achieved second place in long jump, third in 100m, and second in 200 metres at the Trans Tasman Challenge. Well done Scott.

.. Those children who have made particular efforts to make our new students feel welcome.

.. Former students who achieved well at their secondary schools in 2009 - some stunning achievements.

Please keep us informed of the achievements of present and past pupils so that we can celebrate these together.

**think... SOLD!**

think yellow,  
think...

**Maggie Dixon**  
Real Estate Ltd. (09) 4700996  
www.maggiedixon.co.nz

Michele Blagrove, Sales Consultant  
Mobile 027 6100 303. After Hours 09 4335 735

**WINSTONE GLASS** *Leaders in glass*

Call us for all your glass needs – commercial and domestic – Showers, mirrors, cat doors, table tops, etc. Obligation-free quotes \*Locally owned and operated

**Ph 0800 80 90 10** 87 Port Road . Fax 430 7580. Email: glassworks@xtra.co.nz

## Term Events

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar. We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

9 Feb	Feb meeting of the Board of Trustees
12 Feb	Interview appointment sheets sent home
24 Feb	Syndicate discussion evening
24 Feb	Tennis Doubles Tournament
25 Feb	Year 7 and 8 Cricket Tournament
26 Feb	Year 5 and 6 Cricket Tournament
26 Feb	Indicator reports sent home
1 / 2 March	Teacher / Student / parent Conferences
4 March	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School (pp 5.3)
9 March	March meeting of the Board of Trustees
10 March	School Swimming Sports
16 March	Year 4-6 Interschool Swimming Championships
17 March	Year 7 and 8 Interschool Swimming Championships

## Term Dates for 2010

Term 1 - 3.2.10 to 1.4.10	Term 2 - 19.4.10 to 2.7.10
Term 3 - 19.7.10 to 24.9.10	Term 4 - 11.10.10 to (likely) 16.12.09

## For new parents, staffing for 2010 is as follows...

Room 12	Mr Delemare	Year 7 & 8	Assistant Principal Responsible for the Senior School (Rooms 10-12)
Room 11	Mrs Donaldson	Year 7 & 8	
Room 10	Mrs Williams	Year 7 & 8	
Room 9	Mrs Witte	Year 5 & 6	Innovation Class
Room 8	Miss Bevin	Year 5 & 6	
Room 7	Mrs Burgin	Year 3 & 4	Senior Teacher Responsible for the Middle School (Rooms 5 - 9)
Room 6	Mr Schuster	Year 3 & 4	
Room 5	Mrs Abbott / Mrs Sloper	Year 3	
Room 4	Miss Hewitt	Year 2	
Room 3	Mrs Williams	Year 1 & 2	
Room 2		Commencing mid year	
Room 1	Mrs Bruce/Mrs Robertson	Year 1	(These teachers will also share reading recovery)
	Mrs Bruce	Deputy Principal	Responsible for the Junior School (Rooms 1 - 4)
Mrs Comrie	ESOL / Special Needs		
<i>Support staff are as follows:</i>			
	Mrs Dorahy	Office Administration	
	Mrs Crawford	Teacher Aide Junior School / PMP	
	Mrs Neumann	Teacher Aide Junior School / Oral language programme	
	Mrs Wynyard	Teacher Aide Middle/Senior School / PMP	
	Mrs Sinclair	Teacher Aide Senior School / Accounts / PMP	
	Mrs Sullivan	IT Support	
	Mrs Cates	Library/ Principal PA / ESOL	
	Mr Palmer	Grounds / Caretaker	

## What's on In Rooms This Term?

On Wednesday 24 February 3 meetings will be held to better inform you about organisation, routines, expectations, timetables, major units of work, significant events etc. in your child's class this term/year. You are encouraged to attend these meetings and will get a chance to ask any questions of a general nature.

### Meeting times and locations are as follows:

**Middle Syndicate** (Rooms 5 to 9) 6:30 pm in room 7 (Mrs Burgin's room)

**Junior Syndicate** (Rooms 1 to 4) 7:15 pm in room 1 (former library)

**Senior Syndicate** (Rooms 10 to 12) 8:00 pm in room 12 (Mr D's room)

We hope you can set aside the time to attend these meetings. Please advise the school office next week if you will be in attendance.

### Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

1. to advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day.
2. to follow up with a signed note specifying reason for non-attendance (Necessary in the event that our rolls are audited by the Ministry of Ed).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival.

### School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee

The Board is grateful for payment of school contributions and is committed to using these in ways which add value to your children's learning - in this regard it is a little unique as a donation, as we want you to get something concrete in return. Your contributions help to lower teacher / pupil ratios, enable us to employ additional teacher aides, expand special needs hours, subsidise buses & visiting drama groups & so forth. Contributions may be paid in one instalment at year's commencement (\$90 per child) or \$25 per term. The trips and events fee is a more efficient and convenient alternative to the usual collection of smaller amounts throughout the year. While this can also be paid quarterly, we do prefer full payment at the beginning of the year if this is possible.

If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact me to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.

### Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. You are welcome to source your stationery off site but take care to note the quality of items you purchase, also the price difference is sometimes minimal. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

### Sunhats

A reminder that school broad brimmed sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

### Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 1 and 2 March - an interview booking sheet will be sent out with next week's newsletter. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. While syndicate discussions are an opportunity to talk about matters of a general nature, conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

### Special Needs Programme

If your child has been selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's special needs programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is anticipated.

### Punctuality

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call. Many thanks.

### Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$25 per family for the 2010 swimming season. Those who held their key last year in anticipation of using again this year will have received an invoice this week. Please send the money in asap. Many thanks.

## **Bus Times**

Buses times and routes are as at the end of last year. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

(Children who catch the bus at the hall travel on the second (Worsnop Rd) bus in the morning, travel home on the 3:05pm bus at the end of the day.)

Children travelling by bus from Kamo will be picked up at GJ Gardner Homes at 7:45 in the morning, and dropped at the Cleaning Oasis at the end of the day by 4:30 PM. Plenty of room on this bus and so well and truly open to new users. Fee of \$2 per trip to be given to the bus driver.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.**

**Early Buses** – early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 1 and 2 March because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 please on these days.

## **Pick up of Children**

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by room 12, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.

2. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.

3. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:15PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office). Non-bus children remaining at school after 3:25 should be placed in the After School Care Programme.

## **End of Day Buses**

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please –

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Write your child's name in the appropriate column on the blackboard in the corridor between room 10 and 11.

This saves time searching for children.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

## **After School Care**

All users of this programme are asked to register please. This can be done on line by visiting [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz) or alternatively by checking in with the programme manager here at school before the start of ASC. The standard of this programme has been significantly upgraded and large subsidies are available to most users. We hope parents will make full use of this programme to help ensure it is sustainable. Brochures are available from the school office.

## **Term Headlice Inspection**

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak. We are desperate for offers of help and so .. if you are able to help with inspections please phone Donna Cates here at school. – Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

## **Request from our Librarian**

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible. Replacement value of books missing from last year is in excess of \$1,000 and we are anxious to recover at least some of this.

### Request from Junior Class

The junior class uses wine cask boxes as book boxes. We have an ongoing need for these, so whenever you empty one please bring it to school for us! Thank you.

### Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on either 22 or 23 February (senior and middle schools respectively) please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this.

*Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please return the attached parent helpers form by 12 February (or later by arrangement). Please give me a call if you wish to further discuss your potential involvement.

### Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Last year we did a major update of this information but need parents to advise the office asap of any changes occurring in the last 12 months. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

Some medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. Please contact us if unsure.

**Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

### Swimming

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

### My Career Books

This year, junior stationery lists had the **OPTION** of buying a custom made portfolio to contain reports and other school documents gathered throughout a child's school career. We know how often parents misplace reports, school photographs etc. and these could be a handy place to store these. Although these are \$22, this is a one off purchase, covering schooling through to year 13. While we included these on stationery lists for year 1 and 2 children, parents are most welcome to purchase these for older children for whom they are just as relevant. **There is a limited supply of these and they cannot be purchased anywhere else - if you would like to view a sample portfolio please drop by the school office.**

### Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning can result from simple things like ..

.. **drinking plenty of water.**

Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).

... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM is suggested for all children.

.. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.

.. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

### Community Notices

For Sale - Good quality firewood. \$50 per 6x4 trailer. Ph 433 8185.

Bingo Fundraising Evening - Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.00pm, Whangarei Rock N Roll Club, \$5 per ticket. Music and supper provided. For more info ph Michelle on 438 6808.

St Johns Youth Programme - Teaching aged 6-18 first aid, healthcare, leadership and life skills. Re-opening February. For more information check out [www.stjohnyouth.org.nz](http://www.stjohnyouth.org.nz) or phone 0800 785 646.

**Scholastic Book Orders** .. Issued today, orders need to be at the office by next Friday 19th February

**PTA Meeting** - Monday 7pm 8<sup>th</sup> February 2009, in the school staffroom, all welcome.

### **Guitar Lessons**

There are a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (Wednesday & Thursday in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email [killalea@ihug.co.nz](mailto:killalea@ihug.co.nz)

### **PTA Friday Lunches**

.. start next week. Please find order form attached for completion and return to school. Weekly orders must be in no later than Tuesday of the week in question. If you are able to help pickup pies, heat or distribute please contact Michelle Martin on 433 5061. Thank you.

### **Communications**

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair and will accommodate you where we can. In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher, but I am always available down the track or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

In the past I have also advised parents to come in early before small problems become big ones. At the risk of contradicting myself, I have come to see that there is also a time to wait to see how things pan out - time solves many problems. Sometimes a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week has disappeared from the radar screen the following week. Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second or third or fourth piece of relevant information.

### **Questions**

We hope the newsletter keeps you informed of major issues throughout the year. Nevertheless you will have questions from time to time. Please feel free to phone the office at any time or to approach staff. We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask.

### **Parental consent to use photographs of your children**

When parents enrol their children at Matarau School they are asked to give consent for the school to display their child's work and christian name on the school's website and in school publications. This is fairly standard practice across schools. We have altered the wording of this consent to included **children's photographs**. It now reads as follows

***I will advise in the event that I DO NOT WANT my child's WORK, NAME OR PHOTOGRAPH to be displayed on the school website (christian name only) or in the school newsletter or in any school publication.***

If you are **happy for the school to use photographs** in this way you **need take no action**. If you definitely **DO NOT** want your child's photograph used in such a way could you **please advise the school office next week** and we will ensure that staff are advised of this. 2010 consent forms have been updated to include this amendment. We regularly monitor all matters relating to internet and general safety of children. We live in a rapidly changing world and such matters remain under constant review.

### **Board Election**

You may already know that this year school boards are up for re-election. If you are interested in serving on our board please don't hesitate to contact Kevin or any board member to discuss what this involves (or perhaps attend the occasional board meeting). The closing date for nominations is 23 April and polling day is

7 May. While it would be fair to say that the autonomy of school boards has been very much eroded in recent years, there are still ways boards can make a real difference to schools - the quality of our teaching team, very low class numbers, and past and anticipated building projects are just a few examples of this (Thanks to the current board!).

### **Finally**

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. Plenty to get excited about this year... including our new junior block, very low class numbers, a renewed focus on mathematics, training children to self-assess and forward plan and much more. .. not to mention the National Standards (watch this debate closely - things are not always as they seem to be). Will keep you posted on these initiatives and more. Welcome on board. Great to be back.

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

**WHANGAREI**  
***Physiotherapy Services***  
445 Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei  
Telephone 09 435 2299  
Facsimile 09 435 2222  
Kensington Gym Clinic  
Telephone 09 459 5000

### **A Message from our SKIDS Team**

*Marcelle and Emma of SKIDS 'Safe Kids in Daily Supervision' would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome Matarau School has shown to them.*

*They would also be very pleased to answer any questions you may have in regards to the SKIDS after school program, which is up and running each day. We can now offer fun filled after school supervision until 6pm and remember you could qualify for a subsidy too!*

*Also, please let it be known to them if you would appreciate an Easter Holiday Program being available for your child. If there are enough numbers this could be something to look forward to. To contact Marcelle or Emma text or call 0278461724 or pop into the school hall at the end of the school day. Alternatively you will find information and enrolment forms online at [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz)*